

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 10, 2001. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended for clarity. Claims 5, 6 and 38 have been canceled. Claims 1-4 and 7-37 are now pending in this application. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8-11, 28-30 and 38 under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by GB 2,295,157 (GB '157). However, the Examiner allowed claim 6, 7, 12-27 and 32-37 and stated that claim 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 6 and to include limitations from intervening claim 5. As such, applicants submit that claim 1 as now amended is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4 and 7-11 are all directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1. As such, applicants submit that claims 2-4 and 7-11 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent from an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations they contain therein.

Claim 28 is directed to a rock bit comprising a body having a cutting cone and a number of teeth on the cone which include a hard facing comprising steel, and filler in the range of 50-80% by weight wherein the filler comprises in the range from 10-100% by weight spherical cast tungsten carbide particles having a particle size less than 40 mesh. According to the Examiner, GB '157 discloses the use of sintered and cast carbide pellets where the cast carbide pellets range in size between 40-80 mesh. Thus, the alleged tungsten carbide particles disclosed by GB '157 have a size between 40-80 mesh. GB '157 does not disclose a hard facing comprising tungsten carbide particles having a particle size less than 40 mesh. As such, applicants submit that claim 28 is not anticipated by GB '157. Claims

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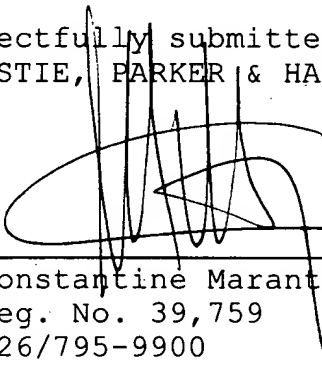
29 and 31 are dependent from claim 28. As such, applicant submits that claims 29 and 31 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent from an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations they contain therein.

The rejections and objections to all claims pending in this application are believed to have been overcome and this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns about the allowability of this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss them.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By


Constantine Marantidis
Reg. No. 39,759
626/795-9900

Pasadena, CA

CM/cmc

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1, 7 and 8 as follows:

1. (Amended) A rock bit comprising:
a body;

at least one cutting cone rotatably mounted to an end of the body, wherein the cone includes a gage surface at a heel portion of the cone;

a number of teeth on the cone, the teeth including a plurality of inner row teeth and a plurality of gage row teeth located near a heel of each cone, wherein the teeth include a hardfacing comprising:

steel in the range of from 20 to 50 percent by weight;
and

filler in the range of from 50 to 80 percent by weight,
the filler comprising in the range of from 10 to [100] 99 percent by weight spherical cast tungsten carbide particles having a particle ^{sizes} ~~size~~ between about 16 to 40 mesh and between about 80 and 200 mesh, and tungsten carbide particles selected from the group consisting of spherical cemented, crushed cemented, crushed cast, crushed macrocrystalline, and carburized.

7. (Amended) The rock bit of claim [6] 1 wherein the filler comprises spherical cast tungsten carbide particles having a particle size between about 100 to 200 mesh.

8. (Amended) The rock bit of claim [5] 1 wherein the filler further comprises macrocrystalline tungsten carbide particles having a particle size between about 40 to 80 mesh.